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OLYMPIC SOUVENIRS



Mass expulsions, near-riots and heartily disappointed spectators — this was Mexico during the Games. Two memorable scenes from the Olympics. Left: A lone policeman is watching as spectators hurl cushions on the ground at one of the matches. Above: Scene from the Japan v. France match at the Azteca Stadium. See Lou Gautier's full reports on page 4 and 5.

Inter—City league or conspiracy?

— By PAUL DEAN —

NSW Federation President, Jim Bayutti, said the move by five Sydney clubs to form an inter-city league was illegal.

"I knew nothing about their plans," he said.

"As everybody knows, we do plan a pre-season Ampol Cup on an inter-city basis — but that's different.

"We never gave permission for clubs to enter into arrange-

ments for an inter-city league."

Despite poker-faced denials by all concerned, continuous palavers are taking place by several Sydney officials to start an intercity league in 1969.

Hakoah, Pan Hellenic, APIA, Prague and Croatia are mentioned as "five certainties".

Sadly in character with our soccer set-up, all the discussions on this vital subject were held privately, if not furtively.

According to reliable reports, a formal meeting was held in Melbourne last Sunday to "form" the new league.

The Melbourne clubs involved are reported to be Hellas, George Cross, Hakoah and Croatia.

DISAPPROVED

Should the NSW Executive and the full Council disapprove of the move, the five Sydney clubs could find themselves out on a limb.

And the same is likely to happen in Melbourne.

Our views on the national or intercity league have not changed.

Such moves MAY be progressive and successful — if very thoroughly prepared.

Otherwise they're doomed to expensive failure, like so many other feeble attempts in the past.

The history of soccer has proved a thousand times all over the world that only better class games bring bigger crowds: tricks and gimmicks, even if backed by American millionaires, always fail.

If the planners of the intercity league have any firm ideas how the overall standard of the game could be improved — we'd like to hear of them.

'KEEPER OFF TO U.K.

— By BOB LOW —

George Cross have been presented with a goal-keeping problem by the departure last Friday for England of 20-year-old Lou Kastener who has arranged to play extended trials with English Third Division club Watford.

Kastener, German born who came to Australia as a boy, has been with George Cross for nearly seven years but it wasn't until early 1968 that he grabbed his first team chance and remained a regular, hitting the top-flight of State League soccer.

George Cross officials are pretty hostile over Kastener's departure.

Although the player has been negotiating for almost a year in his bid to go to England and had his ship passage booked for some time, it is only recently that he has let the news leak out of his intentions.

A former George Cross player now back in England recommended Kastener to Watford while another ex-player of the Cross had also been making arrangements for the goal to turn out in trials for a Scottish side.

George Cross have not so far given Kastener their official blessing to go ahead although it seems possible that they will relent and give him the all-clear on the understanding that if he returns to Australia he will again be bound to the club.

Almost as soon as they lost Lou Kastener to England, the George Cross management swung into action in a bid to secure an adequate replacement to line up with their team in the Ampol Cup which starts in mid-January.

UNIQUE GRAND SLAM BY CRACK SYDNEY HAKOAH

Sydney Hakoah last Sunday won the 1968 Australia Cup, beating their Melbourne sister club 3-1 at Middle Park.

They won the first leg match 3-0 in Sydney a week earlier.

This ended quite a remarkable season for the Sydney club who have also won —

- The Sydney Ampol Cup;
- The Interstate Ampol Cup;
- The NSW championship;

● The NSW Grand Final.

During the entire year they lost only three matches, two in the championship and one in the play-off series.

Hakoah, brilliantly moulded together by their coach, former England winger Doug Holden, are choking with talent.

Fuzes, Fekete, Hillsdon, Walsh, Marnoch. Yaager,

Watkiss, Baartz and Jones have all gained a representative honor of some kind.

Two have not as yet — but will, no doubt.

They are the Rutherford brothers, winger Harry (pictured) and his inside man Willie, Australia's best imports from Scotland since whisky.

There is no doubt that national team coach Joe Vlasits will lean heavily on

Hakoah's brilliant complement when, possibly in January, he announces his basic squad for 1969.

The day after clinching the Australia Cup — their second — Hakoah flew off to New Caledonia on a busman's holiday.

While the players are likely to relax a little, it is certain that in Hakoah Australia will have worthy ambassadors overseas.

VIC. SECRETARY QUITS SUDDENLY

— From BOB LOW —

Shock news from the Victorian front last week was the resignation of VSF secretary, Gerald Edgar.

He will vacate his office in early December to take up an appointment as secretary-manager of the Institute of Sales and Marketing Executives.

An Englishman from Lancashire, Gerald Edgar had been in Australia for only a few years when he secured the post in mid-1965 as secretary of the Victorian Soccer Federation.

He succeeded Stuart Beaton who had previously been in the post for 16 years.

Edgar, who is married with four sons, told me:

"I am sorry to terminate my official connection with the game but at the same time I have absolute faith in its progress on a nation-wide basis in Australia.

"During my time with the VSF many schemes have been implemented, especially at junior level which will assure its promotion and progress at a high level in the future."

Edgar is likely to assist the new secretary for some time on a part-time basis after he formally terminates his office.



H. RUTHERFORD...
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ROUND THE WORLD

Southern madness

AC Napoli have just disclosed that they finished last season with a deficit of \$1,500,000. This despite the fact that their average home attendance was a staggering 66,000, with a minimum admission price to the terraces at \$2. One reason for their hardship: they paid out \$600,000 just for the renewal of players' contracts with Altafini topping the list; he collected \$60,000 merely for re-signing.

Costly failures

Coventry, languishing near the bottom of First Division, have spent an absolute fortune on new players since Noel Cantwell had taken over as manager. Cantwell's expenditure in less than a year exceeds \$900,000 on Hannigan, Baker, Setters, Martin, Hunt, Cattlin and Hateley.

Near the headline

Not every South American player gets rich: the average professional in Paraguay earns between \$250 and \$400 a month including salary and bonuses. In Ecuador First Division players are even worse off: they are lucky to earn \$100 a month.

Welsh can behave

No Welshman has ever been sent off in a full international, but the other three home countries have had players dismissed in the last eight years — Pat Crerand (Scotland) v. Czechoslovakia in May, 1961; Billy Ferguson (Ireland) v. England in October, 1966, and Alan Mullery (England) v. Yugoslavia five months ago.

Best well off

Manchester United and Irish international forward star George Best, has made a fortune out of the game, and says: "I suppose I could live in comfort for the rest of my life if I were to retire now." Yet he reached 22 only last May!

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Rhodesia has a fulltime national coach, former Scot Danny McLennan, who spends a great deal of his time travelling thousands of miles across the country, passing on his knowledge to Africans in townships and villages from Shabani in the south to Mangula near the Zambian border. McLennan also trains with his national squad regularly, hoping to have them in shipshape for next year's World Cup elimination matches. Just as a matter of interest: Rhodesia and Australia are in the same group...

● The president of Sparta Prague, Martin Fitch, better known as a film producer, died suddenly from a heart attack during the first days of Soviet occupation of Czechoslovakia.

● English non-League club Stourbridge have appointed as manager Jimmy Adam, the former Aston Villa and Luton winger who spent some years in Melbourne and recently returned to the Birmingham region.

● Joseito, one time Real Madrid star, is the new coach of Valencia in Spain.

● Co Prins, the Dutch-born forward rated as the best in the USA, has signed a new two-year contract with the New York generals.

● Said Sir Matt Busby with a straight face after the riotous Estudiantes v. Manchester United match: "Nobby Stiles has never hurt anyone in his life."

● The longest league season in the world is in Colombia: 48 weeks, during which the 13 First Division teams meet each other four times.

● Tommy Docherty, that fiery Scot is in trouble again. Tommy, now managing Third Division Rotherham, was recently fined £1,000 for using a suspended player — in a friendly game.

● Ladislao Kubala has been appointed Canada's national coach for the next year.

● One of Stoke City's goalkeepers, John Sharrow, 25, died last week at training from heart attack.

● Cardiff City's gangling centre-forward John Toshack is again in demand: several clubs have offered £180,000 for him but manager Jim Scoular has refused to let him go.

● Manchester United players have all autographed a plastic football which has already sold close to half a million pieces in Europe. The United players' cut is threepence a ball.

● Rivelino, the latest Brazilian star forward, has accepted a lucrative offer to publicise an American car.

● Santos of Brazil, together with Pele, will make yet another tour of Europe in February 1969.

● Liverpool's Scottish ace, Ian St. John has turned into a spare-time disk jockey: he has a weekly half-hour request show on a Liverpool station.

● After his recent South American tour, Benfica's great Eusebio said Botafogo was Brazil's strongest team — but he would prefer to play for Flamengo.

● Jorge Luis, 21, of the Brazilian Vasco de Gama club, died last week after spending an excessive period in a sauna bath.

● Interesting but obviously not very important: Sir Alf Ramsay has never received an FA coaching badge.

● The North Koreans may venture out of their ivory tower: they plan to play a series of matches in Hong Kong.

● Derby County manager Brian Clough encourages his players to go to bed before matches. This, he claims, helps them to beat the build-up of tension.

● At the age of 34, former German international star Horst Szymaniak has left the USA and returned to his native land where he joined an amateur club, SV Steinheim.

● There is a sharpshooter in a small Welsh club: Ray Best, with Abergavenny Thursdays; in a recent amateur cup match against Abercynon, he scored 12 of his team's 19 goals.

● Dynamo Zagreb's brilliant international centre-forward Zambata is likely to sign for a French club soon.

● Espanol Barcelona has sacked its coach, Jeno Kalmar and technical director, Emil Oszterreicher, both expatriate Hungarians.



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The Batty XI.

English soccer writer Eric Batty published his annual World's Best XI recently in "World Soccer" and, once again, has managed to produce his little surprises. This is his team: Zoff (Italy); Jusufi (Yugosl.), Popluhar (Czech.), Facchetti (Italy); Beckenbauer (Germ.), Moore (England); Bene (Hung.), Peters (Engl.), Mazzola (It.), Hurst (Engl.), Lubanski (Pol.).

The first interesting thing is that Batty, notoriously critical of English style football, has included three English players in his team.

It's perhaps only a coincidence that Batty is a well-known West Ham supporter — and Moore, Peters and Hurst are all from West Ham United...

In the light of this personal bias, perhaps the other selections are also easier understood...

Batty has completely bypassed all South Americans as well as such outstanding and highly successful Europeans as Pantelico, Holzer and Dzajic (all Yugoslavs and all, in my book, superior to Zoff, Popluhar and Lubanski), Suics, Albert (Hungary), Eusebio, Graca (Portugal) and others.

In fact, he also overlooked Kamamoto (because he never saw him) who is an infinitely better and more gifted player than Hurst, even if he doesn't play for West Ham...

— P.D.

SCOREBOARD

FAIR CITIES' CUP: Rangers v. Dundalk (Ireland) 6-1; Sporting Lisbon (Portugal) v. Newcastle United 1-1; Setubal (Portugal) v. Olympique Lyon (France) 5-0; DWS Amsterdam (Holland) v. Chelsea (England) 0-0 after time. Aggregate DWS 0, Chelsea 0. DWS won on toss of coin. Real Zaragoza (Spain) v. Aberdeen (Scotland) 3-0. Real Zaragoza won on 4-2 aggregate.

BELGIUM: FC Liegeois v. Standard Liege 4-3; Racing White v. Beeringen 3-1; Lierse v. La Gantoise 2-1; Charleroi v. Beveren Waas 1-1; FC Brugois v. FC Malinois 1-1; St. Trond v. Daring 2-1; Beerschot v. Gilloise 5-1; Anderlecht v. Waregem 2-2.

FRANCE: Nimes v. Ajaccio 0-1; Marseilles v. Rennes 3-3; Sedan v. Lyon 1-0; Nantes v. Rouen 0-1; Valenciennes v. Nice 3-1; Sochaux v. Bastia 2-2; Monaco v. Red Star 1-1; Bordeaux v. Metz 1-0; St. Etienne v. Strasbourg 2-0.

HOLLAND: Holland Sport v. Volendam 2-1; Telstar v. DOS 2-1; Twente v. Ajax 5-1; Feyenoord v. Fortuna Sittardia 5-0; MVV v. Sparta 0-0; DWS v. NAC 2-0; PSV v. Go Ahead 0-1; AZ '67 v. GVVAV 1-1; NEC v. ADO 0-1.

ITALY: Cagliari v. Vicenza 3-0; Florence v. Bologna 1-3; AC Milan v. Inter Milan 1-0; Palermo v. Verona 0-0; Pisa v. Atalanta 1-0; AS Roma v. Sampdoria 1-0; Torino v. Napoli 0-0; Varese v. Juventus 0-2.

PORTUGAL: Setubal v. Sanjoanense 3-0; Porto v. Sporting 1-1; Benfica v. Atletico 4-3; Belenenses v. Varzim 4-1; Braga v. Leixoes 0-1; Academica v. Guimaraes 1-1; Tomar v. CUF 1-1.

RUMANIA: Rapid v. Univ. Craiova 2-0; Steaua v. Petrolul 2-0; Dinamo 3-0; Din. Bacau v. Vagonul 3-0; Mures v. Univ. Cluj 3-1; Petrolul v. Crisul 2-0; Arg. Pitesti v. Progr. Bucharest 2-0; Farul v. Polit. Iassy 1-0. Table:UTA 16, Univ. Craiova 15, Steaua, Petrolul 13 pts.

SPAIN: Coruna v. Sabadell 1-1; Malaga v. Atletico Madrid 0-0; Real Madrid v. Real Sociedad 2-1; Espanol v. Valencia 0-1; Elche v. Barcelona 1-2; Cordoba v. Bilbao 1-1; Las Palmas v. Granada 1-0; Zaragoza v. Pontevedra 2-2.

TURKEY: Izmirspor v. Altinordu 2-2; PTT v. Demirsport 1-0; Vefa v. Istanbulspor abandoned; Besiktas v. Bursaspor 2-2; Fenerbahce v. Goztepe 1-1; Genclerbirigi v. Altay 3-3; Galatasaray v. Eskisehirspor 2-0; Mersinpor v. Sekerspor 5-0. Table: Mersinpor, Galatasaray, Besiktas, Eskisehirspor 7 pts.

WEST GERMANY: Kaiserslautern v. Hertha Berlin 1-0; FC Nurnberg v. VfB Stuttgart 1-1; Munchen 1860 v. Schalke 04 3-1; Borussia Dortmund v. Werder Bremen 3-2; Hamburger SV v. Alemannia Aachen 3-0; FC Koln v. Bayern Munchen 1-1; Hannover 96 v. Eintracht Frankfurt 1-2; Kickers Offenbach v. Eintracht Braunschweig 0-1; Moenchengladbach v. Duisburg 1-0.

YUGOSLAVIA: Vojvodina v. Rijeka 2-0; Velez v. Maribor 1-0; Celik v. Zeljeznicar 3-0; Vardar v. Partizan 1-2; Red Star v. OFK Belgrade 2-0; Sarajevo v. Hajduk 0-0; Radnicki v. Bor 0-0; Olimpja v. Proleter 0-0; Dinamo v. Zagreb 1-0.

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REVIEW OF SYDNEY TEAMS '68

— By LOU GAUTIER —

A catastrophic start in the championship, which netted only three points from six games, dashed Croatia's hopes of qualifying for the final round-robin for the second consecutive year.

Croatia were one of the season's unlucky teams, and injuries played havoc with their side, especially in the early stages which so often determine the course of the whole season.

The Cush brothers, Frank and Ray, who showed so much promise in 1967, and evergreen stopper Curry were hardest hit by injuries this year and there is little doubt that their repeated absences weakened the team fatally.

Curry, in particular, who only played in nine matches, was sadly missed because he was the key player on whom Croatia's defence was based.

Without the Irish "veteran," Croatia's defence loses much of its fluency, method and effectiveness. This was apparent whenever he was sidelined.

The dissension between coach Kiss and some players early in the season didn't breed happiness, and though Kiss is one of the most intelligent coaches ever to come to Australia, under the conditions which existed in the team, his replacement by Bill Vrolyks was a sensible move.

a championship match for the past three years.

However, apart from Prague, against whom they collected two points, Croatia were unable to make any impression against the "big two" of the championship, Hakoah and Pan Hellenic, against whom they went down heavily both times.



BRIAN LINCOLN

NEW METHOD

Kiss, however, cannot be dismissed lightly.

He was wholly responsible for Croatia's spectacular rise from obscurity last season when he instilled method and tactical purpose to a collection of spare-parts floundering in the First Division for the last three seasons.

He again proved his ability by coaching Croatia Melbourne to their first-ever State League title when he moved to Victoria in April.

Bill Vrolyks, who was conveniently made the scapegoat for Pan Hellenic's unimpressive displays early in the season, proved more than an able substitute for Kiss.

Vrolyks restored harmony among the players — a must in any club with ambition — and he soon had Croatia back on the winning list.



FRANK CUSH

It's significant to ponder that Prague, for all their brilliance in the final play-offs, might not have reached the round-robin at all had Croatia gathered just two more points in their dreadful initial six-week championship spell.

Considering the handicap of their wretched start, Croatia can be very pleased with their fifth place.

They must also feel happy they retained their surprising hoodoo over APIA. Twice held to 1-1 draw this season, APIA haven't beaten Croatia in

Croatia used 23 players in this year's championship, but some like Longmuir, John Sambrook, John Yaager, Mike Johnson, and Bonazza only made one first team appearance, and Frakes, Barboutis, Fraser and Martin, later transferred to Second Division Marconi, only a few more.

CONSISTENT

Corry was the most consistent goalie in the competition this year. And this though he didn't really have a spectacular season.

In fact, he was below his 1967 best, as were all the other Sydney custodians, underlining that 1968 was not the year of the goal-keeper.

On SOCCER WORLD points averages, Lincoln was the top-flight fullback in the championship, but he, too, was slightly below his 1967 best, and a long way behind the form that made him our "top star" of 1966.

Lincoln, however, remained one of the solid mainstays of the Croatia defence, together with Sloan, whose loss Croatia must feel next season because here was an underrated player who rarely turned in a poor display.

Nigel Shepherd came into his own this season.

He took over from the injury-prone Curry as the anchor-sheet of the defence, and for the first time since his arrival from Melbourne 18 months ago, showed the qualities which had earned him national selection.

Newcomer Dennis Wright from Newcastle settled in well after an inauspicious start.

Once he assumed the vital role of linkman, both he and the team as a whole improved out of sight, and it can be safely said that Wright played as big a part as any Croatia player in transforming the team into a well-oiled, efficient unit after one-third of the competition was over.

Russell Page, one of coach Vrolyks' proteges, didn't pale too much in comparison with his far more experienced, older team-mates.

In attack and midfield, two names stood out:

Reynolds and Giles, in that order.

Both had to shoulder a tremendous work-load to alleviate the frequent indisposition of Frank and Ray Cush, with whom Croatia's attack would have been formidable — as it was on the few occasions when the team was able to field a full complement in attack.

BEST YEAR

Reynolds had his best season in Australia, bar none.

With the exception of a lapse in the second round match against Prague, when the whole team hit rock-bottom, he was the heart and soul behind most of

Croatia's constructive attacking movements in an elastic fetch-and-carry role.

Reynolds received great support from Ron Giles, who, sadly, we may not see again in Sydney.

Giles has now returned to Newcastle for good, along with Wright.

Two young players, however, showed enough talent this year to indicate they may step into the shoes of the Novocastrian pair.

We refer to Manuel Guerrero and Woods, both of whom appear to be way above average forwards despite their youth.

The dashing Guerrero, a local junior product despite his Spanish origins, showed the benefit of a

one-year spell with one of Real Madrid's nursery teams and came back as a dashing winger, who ended the season on a high note with a hat-trick in the last championship match against Canterbury.

Woods, who almost became a regular first-grader, in the latter stages of the competition, scored useful goals and showed enough to suggest we'll be hearing more from him in the near future.

Once labelled a disorganised, rag-tag outfit, Croatia have now blossomed into a well-run, smoothly operating club at all levels.

There is an air of professional efficiency about them which is not apparent

in too many other Sydney clubs.

A small, active band of officials, each with a well defined function, has run the club without a hitch for two years, steering well clear of controversy.

Both on and off the field their record for two years has been immaculate — a slap in the face to those who were screaming for their blood not so long ago.

Croatia have now deservedly earned a top team rating in Sydney soccer.

Though they still have to take out a First Division trophy or title of any description, their turn is bound to come if they continue in the same exemplary fashion.

YUGAL FARED BETTER THAN WAS EXPECTED

Two stunning victories that buried APIA's hopes for a third consecutive championship were the highlights of Yugal's 1968 season.

This was not to be the season of Yugal's long-awaited renaissance, and the memories of their boom years of 1962, 1963 and 1964 just grew a little dimmer.

With their limited ambitions and resources, Yugal seem to have resigned themselves to a modest, unassuming role in Sydney soccer, a role which fitted them like a glove, if their 1968 season can be taken as a guide.

At no stage did they appear likely to be involved either in the battle for the semifinals or the relegation drama, the latter despite the six-week "horror" stretch, which followed their shattering 3-0 first round triumph against an over-Argentinised APIA.

The improvement of some (Hakoah, Pan Hellenic, and especially Polonia), the relative demise of APIA, and the catastrophic deterioration of St. George-Budapest may have surprised, but Yugal's performances and standing were quite in line with their limited capabilities and they achieved no more, no less, in 1968 than was expected of them.

Few changes

Eighth placing with 21 points was an improvement on last season's ninth position and 18 points.

With the exception of Ferdo Dunaj, who hung up his boots to devote himself exclusively to coaching the side, and fullback Nacinovic, who left for a prolonged holiday in Yugoslavia, early in the season, Yugal lost no players.

The club, not because of wont of trying — they tried hard enough, but without success — were unable to secure players from Yugoslavia.

Apart from Frank Lang, who gave surprisingly good service in his 14 first team appearances, no new players joined them this year.

I'm absolutely convinced that had Yugal been able to lure just two players from Yugoslavia in the

Stojanovic, Lazarevic or Jelisavcic class, they would have gained the additional seven points which would have opened them the doors to the final play-offs.

Main victim

Apart from the winning double which sunk APIA, Yugal's only other victim of note in the championship was Prague, whom they beat 1-0 in the second half.

They split the points with Hakoah on the three occasions they met this year (championship and Ampol Cup), confirming the hoodoo of sorts they hold over the league champions.

But these were the only genuine satisfactions their shrinking circle of supporters had to console themselves with this year.

Again inconsistent, Yugal deserved their "yo-yo" team tag as their 4-0 trouncing by Pan Hellenic after an unbeaten seven-week stretch testifies, in the course of which they drew with South Coast and Hakoah and beat St. George, Canterbury, APIA, Prague and Melita Eagles.

Though they scored only 29 goals, Yugal were luckier than most in so much that they did not rely on just one forward to bang them in.

Edwards was their chief executioner, but Alagich, and also Halpin, could be relied on to slam them home and this trio netted 23 of their 29 goals.

The speed of strikers Edwards and Alagich produced many points, but they sorely lacked inside-men.

These were non-existent when Takac parted company with the club after only seven weeks.

As a consequence of this total absence of constructive play-maker, Rafanelli was forced to play an increasingly attacking role, weakening at times a defence which could ill afford to miss the constant support of such a key player.

Joe Alagich's performances may not have been

quite on a par with his 1967 form, but Rafanelli was once again every inch the steady influence and the "motor" of Yugal.



FERDO DUNAJ

Long under-rated, it was pleasing to see Rafanelli's talent at last recognised when he was chosen for the first time in the NSW preliminary squads, and even though he still has to gain the selection he deserves a thousand times, it's heartening to know that there are others who now rate him at his true value.

Peak fitness

Petar Banicevic, I thought, ran a close second to Rafanelli as Yugal's trump card this season.

A fitness fanatic, the former St. George stopper, now in his thirties, kept himself at the peak of condition and was able to hold his defence together as efficiently as others 10 years his junior.

Banicevic and Rafanelli were the foundation stones on which the entire Yugal defence rested, but in young Crnich, Yugal have found a fullback with the lean, greyhound look who should give them sterling service for many more years.

The Yugal attack depended solely on Edwards and Alagich, possibly the

fastest pair of strikers in the game.

Neither is endowed with even above average ball control, however, and would render far greater service if they played alongside a Campana-type grafter.

Halpin assumed a selfless, difficult role throughout the season.

He was Yugal's "jack of all trades," he filled gaps in defence and attack without ever complaining and deserves a pat on the back for his unswerving club spirit, even if at times he looked cumbersome and uncomfortable.

Of the nine teenagers who appeared in the first team from time to time, two stood out — Mike Alagich and winger Volar.

Alagich, Joe's younger brother, when he curbs a dangerously fiery temper, is destined to follow in his brother's footsteps — and could even reach greater heights as he is endowed already with better ball control.

Volar only needs to toughen up physically to become an accomplished wing man.

Yugal are not likely to splurge in extravagant spending next season.

Possibly the hardest up financially of any Sydney club, they are bound to operate again cautiously.

At this stage they don't appear likely to lose any players — not even Banicevic, who swears he has at least another two seasons of Sydney soccer left in him.

The club will probably try again to get some help from the "old country" in the form of some Yugoslav players, but officials are not too confident at the prospects.

So it's a good bet that 1969 will see Yugal, practically unchanged, again taking the field with limited ambitions, content to survive alongside richer, better supported clubs until their outlook takes a turn for the better.

OLYMPIC FLASH-BACK

By: Lou Gautier

Few of the 16 teams in the Olympic tournament really impressed me very deeply.

A good match here, a fine individual showing there, but by and large, most were a rather mediocre lot.

Here, for the record, is a summary of their displays.

HUNGARY

After a shaky start, said to be due to acclimatisation difficulties, Hungary soon emerged as the team to beat.

Once they warmed to the task, they were a real pleasure to watch.

The Hungarians never appear to exert themselves, always playing it cool and unruffled — even when trailing.

In the final, before the match turned into a fiasco, they dazzled the fastidious Mexican crowd with their impeccable technique and "carpet football".

They keep the ball rolling on the ground into open spaces and use the quick double-pass with intelligence and precision.

Whenever possible, they shun body contact, making their game truly a fascinating spectacle.

There can be no doubt that they were by far the best team — despite the absence of their star player, Zoltan Varga, who defected before the Games even started.

In goalie Fater, fullbacks Novak and Pancsics, midfielders Szucs and Juhasz and forwards Menczel, Dunai and Fazekas, they have some outstanding players by any standard.

I'm quite sure some of these will soon be the mainstays of the full Hungarian national team.

BULGARIA

The Bulgarians only have themselves to blame for the fiasco of the final: their excessive hard play caused their downfall.

Their football is based on fast, direct play and they place great emphasis on body contact, shoulder charges and violent physical exertion.

Since their stamina was first class, they gained a big physical ascendancy on all their opponents — they were, for instance, much stronger physically, and fitter than the Hungarians.

Why the Bulgarians relied so much on sheer force is beyond me.

They have marvellous players, capable of prodigious individual brilliance.

Men like Dimitrov, Gaidarski, Jekov, their skipper and the Christov brothers have nothing to learn from the Hungarian wizards in technique and ball control.

The Bulgarian team included six regular, well established "A" internationals and, according to team officials, another four players showed during the Games they were "A" team material.

A serious, no-nonsense side with no weaknesses but no real brilliance either, Bulgaria's second place fitted in well with their abilities.

That they were slightly inferior to champions, Hungary, was evident in the first 40 minutes before the final was turned into a farce.

It's interesting to note that although their officials protested for the sake of form about their three expelled players, the vast majority of their supporters, journalists, and some of the squad members themselves, admitted that at least two deserved their marching orders.

Some Bulgarians also admitted that the mass expulsions had given the team an air-tight alibi for their defeat in the final — a defeat which seemed inevitable even when they still had 11 men on the field.

JAPAN

Enough has been written about Japan's amazing performance without having to elaborate further on Asia's first-ever Olympic soccer medal.

All we can add at this stage is that Japan did not usurp third place.

Hungary, Bulgaria, and perhaps Czechoslovakia, were superior, but the Japanese were better players than all the other Olympic finalists.

Kamamoto was by far their most valuable asset.

At the conclusion of the Games he received a special award, presented by the Mexican soccer writers' association, as the best soccer player in Mexico, just ahead of Hungary's brilliant playmaker-cum goalscorer, Lajos Szucs.

Kamamoto deserved the award because he WAS Japan. Had he not played, the Japanese XI, for all their improvement, courage and tactical discipline, would probably never had got through to the quarterfinals.

For one and all, the Japanese were the big revelations of the Olympics, "the North Koreans of Mexico" is how they were dubbed.

MEXICO

The Mexicans would have gladly traded all their other medals for the Olympic soccer gold medal, such is the popularity of the round ball code in Mexico.

FEW TEAMS ROSE ABOVE AVERAGE AT THE GAMES

The public treated their soccer team's demise as a national tragedy as they had been "brainwashed" by their local Press for months before the Games.

The Mexican papers had shown very unreasonable optimism on the strength of some flattering results against foreign teams over the past 12 months.

I summed the Mexicans up as a very ordinary team, which wouldn't have ever reached the quarterfinals had the series been staged elsewhere, immediately after seeing them struggle to a depressing 1-0 win over Colombia in the opening match.

The Mexicans, I thought, should have been delighted with their fourth placing instead of crying over their shattered delusions.

Frankly, this Mexican team was ill-equipped to do any better.

I feel they did much better than their talent and tactical skill warranted.

For a team which had trained together for many months, even took part in the national competition as a separate unit, Mexico were pathetic.

New Caledonians Charles Tamboeune and Marc Kanyan, especially the later, whose second goal against Mexico was one of the highlights of the entire Olympic program.

Kanyan is certain to turn pro. soon as he is wasted in the Corsican team of Gazelec Ajaccio.

ISRAEL

The Israeli officials and the handful of supporters who accompanied the team to Mexico were jubilant at having reached the quarterfinals.

They were all, however, prostrate at missing a semi-final berth through drawing the wrong lot after holding Bulgaria to a 1-1 draw at Leon.

The Israelis were among the pleasant surprises of the tournament and will be a very difficult obstacle for the countries in the Asian-Oceanic World Cup elimination group.

Lithe, supple and clever, the Israelis can also fight well and never give up.

Their "never-say-die" attitude played as big a part as their ability in enabling them to reach the quarterfinals at Ghana's expense.

Their players have excellent

same football as the Costa Ricans of Deportiva Saprissa who visited Australia in 1959.

Their technique is immaculate, a real surprise, and their fighting spirit indomitable.

For a team whose international experience is very limited, they acquitted themselves remarkably well and in their quarterfinal against Hungary shocked the Magyars by taking over the initiative in the first half.

Hungarian coach Lakat admitted that Guatemala had given his team their hardest match up to the final, the 2-2 with Ghana in the round-robin notwithstanding.

Guatemala, I thought, looked a better team than Mexico and could become a Latin American soccer power in the near future.

GHANA

Rated by many as Africa's best soccer team, Ghana had their hour of glory in Mexico when they held the mighty Hungary to a shock 2-2 draw in a sensational match during which the Magyars experienced many an uncomfortable moment.

Otherwise, Ghana, a late replacement for Morocco who withdrew rather than to meet Israel, did not quite live up to expectations.

Their 3-5 defeat against Israel, which cost them a berth in the quarterfinals, was the most turbulent, violent and riotous of the whole series.

The Ghanians have the most impressive physiques of all African soccer players, but they are the most quarrellous, disorganised outfit you would wish to meet.

EL SALVADOR

There's little one can say about this small Central American country's Olympic performances, except that it is still far removed from world class.

Their natural talent is only ordinary and their tactical sense non-existent.

They fight like mad, but with little purpose, and were an easy prey for Hungarians and Israelis alike and if they saved face somewhat with a 1-1 draw with Ghana it was only because the Ghanians in their last match had no chance of qualifying and played without any incentive.

THAILAND

Thailand were pathetic, conceded 19 goals and scored only one in their three matches.

They were very inferior to all teams on every count — stamina, ability, tactics and team-work.

The Thais were on the defensive in every match and if they didn't concede a round dozen in every game it is because their goalie On-am Chao saved countless shots.

On-am Chao was the only Thai player not to look ridiculous in a competition where they never belonged.

COLOMBIA

Despite their largely professional line-up, the Colombians, whom many had tipped as the tournament's dark horses, hardly caused a ripple in Mexico.

Half of the Colombian team was made up of full "A" internationals, including full-back Luis Soto and forwards Alfredo Aranga, Norman Ortiz and German Gonzales, who play for Millionarios, the wealthy Bogota club whose

match fees are amongst the highest in South America.

The Colombians know how to play football. There's no denying that, but their back-peddalling and appalling slowness nullified their individual cleverness.

GUINEA

The Guineans were a big hit with the Mexican public which loves an underdog and encouraged them enthusiastically in every match, even against Mexico though the game was vital for the host country as a draw against the Africans would have eliminated them from the quarterfinals.

Though they still have a long way to go before they assimilate what modern football is all about, the Guineans have tremendous natural ability and some of their players have nothing to envy even from Pele when it comes to providing dazzling solo acts which brings the public to its feet.

The Guineans, however, overdo the clever stuff which invariably plays into their opponents' hands as they still lack notions of discipline and team-work.

NIGERIA

Nigeria were the antithesis of Guinea, their African neighbors.

The Nigerians, too, have natural ability, like all colored athletes apparently, but have not been encouraged to express them properly.

If the Guineans overdid the fancy stuff, the Nigerians seemed as though they were afraid and inhibited to play instinctively.

It was the Nigerians' fighting spirit which allowed them to avoid big defeats.

In all three games they "only" conceded three goals and held Brazil to a 3-3 draw, though in this instance it was Brazil who fought most valiantly after being down 0-3 at halftime.

BRAZIL

Any resemblance between the Brazilian Olympic squad and their famous World Cup heroes is purely coincidental.

Brazil's Olympians were not even clever ball-players in the traditional Brazilian mould.

I can guarantee there is not one budding Pele among the 22 Brazilians who came to Mexico and returned home without winning a match.

Mind you, the Brazilians were never outclassed: they only lost 1-0 to Spain in their opening match in a horrid game which could easily have gone the other way, and against Japan they played a 1-1 draw, but Japan hit the posts four times and were always on top.

Against Nigeria, they were trailing 0-3 at halftime, but showed great courage to fight back for a 3-3 draw.

SPAIN

The difference between the Spanish "A" team and their amateur XI is also staggering.

The Spanish Olympians may be the best amateurs in Western Europe, but they just don't rate internationally.

Spain's play was most unspectacular.

They operated only with breakaways in attack, relying on Jose Antonio Barrios and Gerardo Ortega to chase goals.

The Spaniards' redeeming feature was their indomitable pride and gusto — a Spanish trait which typifies most of their sporting teams.



They played a stereotyped, unintelligent football consisting of useless, time-consuming lateral passes which got them nowhere.

They don't know what direct football is, and their finishing is atrocious even by Australian standards.

Their individual ability is only fair.

Their players were nowhere near some of the Africans, and certainly miles behind the Hungarians, Czechs and Bulgarians in skill and ball control.

None of the Mexican Olympians, some of whom like Pereda, Estrada, Regueiro, Alejandro and Victorino enjoyed good reputations before the Games, showed up.

FRANCE

In reaching the quarterfinals the French amateurs did all that was expected of them.

They may have been disappointed to lose to Japan in the quarterfinals, but for those who know the standard of both teams it was no surprise because French amateur football is indeed inferior to the well drilled, efficient Japanese machine.

France, however, covered themselves with glory in Mexico when they thrashed the local XI 4-1 in front of a stunned crowd of 65,000 at the Azteca Stadium.

That win alone vindicated France's presence at the Games and was hailed as one of French soccer's greatest international triumphs — and one of Mexico's blackest days in sport.

The French, with limited individual talent available, played a very tight defensive game and used the off-side trap to perfection — better than any team.

This, however, boomeranged against them when they met Japan whose ace forward, Kamamoto, broke through the French defence at will.

France's star players were

nerves and the right temperament for such a tournament.

In forwards Faygenbaum, Shpiegler and Reuben Young, Israel have a talented, match-winning trio to whom they owe their exceptional showing.

Israel are making a big effort to lift their soccer standard and their fine performances in Mexico will give the sport a shot in the arm back home.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The Czechs were not unduly surprised that they did not repeat their Tokyo performance where they won the silver medal.

The events in Czechoslovakia played havoc with their Olympic preparation and their morale was at rock-bottom.

The Czechs, however, were not prepared to miss out on the quarterfinals as it had seemed a foregone conclusion they would dominate Group "D" with Bulgaria at the expense of Thailand and Guatemala.

The Guatemalans had different ideas and their 1-0 win over the 1964 vice-champions was the biggest surprise of the tournament.

The Czechoslovakian team abounded in first rate players who are among the stars of their First Division competition back home — Kramerius, Linhart, Strunc, Vacerek, Bouska and Krnac, just to name a few.

In technique the Czechs had nothing to envy from the Hungarians or the Bulgarians, but poor physical condition caused their demise.

GUATEMALA

The obscure Central Americans were one of the big surprises of the Games, causing a sensation by beating Czechoslovakia 1-0 in their first match and only losing 1-2 to Bulgaria before thrashing Thailand 4-1.

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ARE BEST

OLYMPIC FLASH-BACK

By: Lou
Gautier

Referee "butchered" final tie

The Olympic final was one of the greatest sporting disappointments of my life.

Together with 70,000 spectators I went to the Azteca Stadium anticipating the best match of a dull, unsatisfying series, a match which would redeem the prestige of the Olympic tournament, which certainly needed a shot in the arm after the mediocre football dished out by almost every team up to the final.

The first 41 minutes were superb, and everybody was already congratulating himself — and one another — at having given the final session of the swimming and gymnastics a miss to witness what was proving a classic between defending champions, Hungary, and their ambitious challengers, Bulgaria, the conquerors of Mexico in the semifinals.

Not having seen the World Cup or any live top class international football involving European or South American teams since 1955, I have little hesitation in stating that the first 40 minutes of the Hungary v. Bulgaria match were the finest I've ever witnessed.

IMPECCABLE

Here were the magical Magyars, not all their best players, mind you, dazzling the knowledgeable, hard to please Mexican fans with their impeccable technique and the Bulgarians, though in a vastly different style, were also getting their share of the "hinchas" applause.

The contrast in styles was startling.

The Hungarians played all in finesse and the Bulgarians were more decisive, if less clever individually and inferior in technique and ball control.

The Hungarian technique, which is world-famous, I discovered in these 40 minutes or so, is not an empty word.

The Hungarians remained unruffled, even when they conceded the first goal of the match in the 22nd minute when Dimitrov put Bulgaria in the lead with a flying header from a lightning-fast cross from Yantchovski which caught the otherwise impeccable Hungarian defence on the wrong foot.

The Hungarian journalists at this stage were bemoaning their team's "slowness" lack of punch in attack and "back-peddling."

Their players, they claimed, were too frail compared to the robust, hard-tackling, and more direct Bulgarians.

This was not my opinion, however, and I assured one of my neighbours, Laszlo Lukacs, that Hungary would soon equalise and go on to win because it was evident, to me at least, that the Bulgarians were bound to run out of steam soon as their fast and furious tempo couldn't possibly last despite their stamina and hair-raising desperado tactics.

In the space of 40 seconds, between the 40th and 41st minutes I was vindicated.

Before the Bulgarians knew what had hit them, they were trailing 1-2, the result of two spectacular goals by Mencil and Dunai.

Mencil's goal was a neat 10-yard volley from a well-taken corner by

Fazekas which goalie Yordanov — the best man on the field in the first half through some superb goal-keeping — could only punch onto the feet of the cleverly positioned Mencil, who had moved up.

Dunai's goal, thirty seconds later, came from a Nagy cross after a quick move almost straight from the kick-off when the Bulgarians lost the ball unnecessarily.

Dunai pounced on the ball and before the dazed Bulgarians "woke up," the ball was in the net and Hungary deservedly led 2-1 four minutes before half-time.

Sad to say, this was it for the afternoon.

That's when the football stopped and the greatest sporting farce it has been my misfortune to witness started.

A minute after Dunai's goal the Bulgarian winger Dimitrov was sent off, justifiably, though a bit hastily by referee De Leo, an Italian officiating in Mexico for the past 15 years, for kicking Nosko without the ball.

If that wasn't enough, one minute before half-time Ivkov, the Bulgarian stopper, received his marching orders, too.

Why, I'll never know! To me, he only seemed to get entangled with Dunai in a desperate tackle, both players shoving, pushing and ankle-tapping.

At any rate, the referee pointed to the dressing room.

NO CONTEST

While the 70,000 fans were screaming their rage at seeing the final turned into a one-sided contest which no longer had any meaning, Christov (Anastase) threw the ball in anger straight at the referee's head.

De Leo had no alternative but to send him off also.

The Bulgarians started to walk off the field, but their more level-headed officials rushed on to the field to persuade them to stay on though the final was all over as far as Bulgaria were concerned as they were only eight against 11 Hungarians.

At half-time, the Italo-Mexican referee was hooted and pelted with all sorts of missiles by the crowd, all of whom were understandably incensed as the cheapest seats for the final cost \$4.00 and the most expensive \$15.

The second half was a pathetic, farcical affair.

The Hungarians, who could have scored 10 goals against the eight Bulgarians, had they wanted to, were placed in a very embarrassing, awkward position.

The atmosphere was unbearable for them.

The Hungarians were playing not only against eight Bulgarians, but against 70,000 mercilessly hostile Mexicans.

The Hungarians, I must say, handled themselves with great aplomb and restraint.

Instead of pounding away at the depleted Bulgarians, they held off as much as they could, and after having assured themselves of the gold medal with a goal by Juhasz in the 49th

minute, held on to the ball, tapping it from one man to the other, obviously unwilling to chalk up a gigantic victory, which would have been meaningless anyway.

I wouldn't swear on it, but I am pretty certain that I saw Dunai "apologise" to Yordanov when he scored his second goal in the 60th minute, to make it 4-1.

There was no more scoring after that.

The Hungarians saw to that, but in the last 15 minutes or so the crowd gave full vent to their feelings by pelting the Hungarians with their little yellow cushions and the game had to be interrupted a couple of times as players and officials cleared the

cushion-littered green open spaces of the Azteca.

Full Details:

Hungary: Fater, Novak, Drestyak, Pancsics, Mencil, Szucs, Fazekas, Dunai, Nagy, Nosko, Juhasz (sent off).

Bulgaria: Yordanov, Guerov, Christakiev, Gaidarski, Ivkov (sent off), Gueorguiev, Dimitrov (sent off), Yantchovski (K. Christov), Jekov, A. Christov (sent off), Doner (Ivanov).

Scorers: Dunai 41 and 62 min., Mencil 41 min., Juhasz 49 min. for Hungary; Dimitrov 20 min. for Bulgaria.

Referee: Dilgo De Leo (Mexico).

Crowd: 70,000 at Azteca Stadium.

New Saints' coach is dynamic young man

Ferenc Arok, the 36-year-old Yugoslav of Hungarian extraction who will coach St. George-Budapest next season, was one of the many journalists at the Olympic Games who marvelled at Japan's match-winning marvel Kamamoto.

Arok, who covered the Games for a Novisad daily newspaper, didn't miss a soccer match at the fabulous Azteca Stadium despite a busy schedule.

When I informed him that Japan would be Australia's World Cup opponents, he made it a point to scrutinise the Japanese players.

Arok was surprised, like nearly everybody else, by Japan's fine Olympic showing.

Before seeing the Japanese in action he was rather sceptical when I had suggested they may cause a few shocks.

Though he listened politely, he didn't quite believe me.

He wasn't the only one, I may add.

None of the French journalists took my "warnings" very seriously.

They were all supremely confident France would beat Japan comfortably in the quarterfinals. They didn't.

Arok, who watched the 1966 World Cup in England, doesn't think the Japanese are in the North Korean class yet.

He found them still a bit "naive" tactically and lacking in variety in their play.

Like everyone else in Mexico, however, he was won over by Kamamoto.

"I would like to have a player like that in my team any day," he said.

"Has St. George-Budapest got anyone like him?" he asked hopefully.

I put him straight on that one. Kamamotos are not dime a dozen, especially in Australia where any team lucky enough to have a player of his calibre would romp home in the competition.

Arok rates Kamamoto the equal of most great European forwards.

"He's what every modern forward should be," he said.

"He doesn't only score goals, but plays a roving, foraging game which makes him very difficult to mark because he also has a tremendous turn of speed."

KAMAMOTO...

"If Hungary won their semifinal so easily it was because Pancsics did a great job in tailing him so effectively."

"For me, Kamamoto was a big revelation and his display was one of the highlights of an otherwise rather disappointing soccer tournament."



FERENC AROK

Arok was surprised to learn that Australia had tied a three-match series with Japan earlier this year because he rates Japan the equal of some European countries (i.e. Denmark, Turkey and Norway).

I also put him straight on that score.

I told him that though the series had been tied, Japan had been the better team and had played under a great disadvantage, having to double up in 24 hours for their first two matches after a long flight from Mexico where they had reconnoitred the sites which have now brought them the Olympic bronze medal.

WINNERS WERE THE BEST, JUDGES AGREE

These were some of the comments I gathered after the final.

KAROLY LAKAT (Coach of Hungary): "Hungary deserved the gold medal. Though the referee ruined the final and presented us with the gold medal by sending off three Bulgarians — two of them justifiably, I thought — we were the better team throughout the series."

KAROLY SOOS (Manager of Hungary): "Hungary's toughest game was in the quarterfinals against Guatemala — a better team than either Japan or Mexico. We are

naturally delighted to win, but what a tragedy the final was ruined for spectators and players of both teams just when the two teams were really warming to the task and about to produce the best football of the tournament."

GEORGIU BERKOV (Bulgarian manager):

"Though I don't say we would have beaten Hungary even with a full team, we would have come close to winning the tournament had the most incompetent referee I ever saw shown better judgment. You must make allowances in an Olympic final. Players are nervous and tense and commit fouls more frequently, especially in the early stages."

LEV YASHIN (Russia's goalie): "The worst Olympic soccer tournament I ever saw. There were only two teams above the accepted international average — Hungary and Bulgaria — and it was fitting they should meet in the final. The final, however, was turned into a farce because of weak refereeing. I never like to criticise referees, but Mr. Di Leo will go down in Olympic history as the man who robbed 70,000 people of a tremendous final."

SANTAMARIA (former Real Madrid star, now coach of the Spanish amateurs): "People will forget the 1968 Olympic tournament in a hurry, but not the referee of the final, nor the record number of players sent off in all matches Hungary, because at least they can play football with finesse and intelligence were worthy winners. Even with a full team the Bulgarians, who were rough all through the series, would not have beaten the technical Magyars."

IGNACIO TRELLES (Mexican manager):

"I beseech the world press to stress that the referee of the final, Di Leo, is Italian. Do not judge Mexican refereeing standards by the extraordinarily incompetent display of a foreigner. I am naturally very disappointed Mexico missed out on the medals, but lack of international experience in important tournaments proved too great a handicap. I won't resign. Apart from the Hungarians, all the other teams were of equal standard."

ALF RAMSEY (England manager): "A very poor Olympic tournament. My trip, however, wasn't wasted. I learnt a lot which will be useful for the World Cup 18 months hence. The football was bad, but the Jalisco Stadium at Guadalajara and Mexico City's Azteca are amongst the finest in the world. No, I won't comment on the refereeing, but will add that the Bulgarians were asking for trouble by playing so hard. Even in the quarterfinal, against Israel, they had operated through sheer force, at times, violently. Against Hungary, in the final they paid the supreme penalty for their excessive vigor."

Just how "foreign" is Sydney's soccer?

A glance at the ethnic composition of the Sydney First Division teams during this year's championship would silence those who harp incessantly that soccer is the "foreigner's" game in Australia.

While this may still hold true for Melbourne, where only a handful of players are locals, in Sydney this year a full one-third of the First Division's playing staff was born in Australia.

Of the 268 players who took the field in First Division in 1968, 99 were born in Australia.

If you add the players who migrated with their parents as babies and learnt all their football in this country, the 33 per cent Australian content jumps to just on 40 per cent.

So much for the knockers. The facts and figures which we have compiled speak for themselves, however unpalatable they may be to some people whose arguments just don't make sense any more in 1968 — the year of the big Australian break-through despite the easing of the "quota" laws.

This is the breakdown of the countries of birth of the players who made First Division appearances in 1968:

Australia: 99.
England: 44.
Scotland: 33.
Greece: 16.
Yugoslavia: 15.
Argentina: 11.
Poland: 11.
Hungary: 6.
Wales: 5.
Ireland: 4.
Italy: 4.
Austria: 3.
Czechoslovakia: 3.
Holland: 3.

Malta: 3.
Germany: 2.
New Guinea: 2.
Rhodesia: 2.
New Caledonia: 1.
Spain: 1.

And this is the individual national breakdown of each First Division club:

Hakoah: Scotland 7, England 3, Australia 2, Hungary 2, Wales 2.

Pan Hellenic: Scotland 9, Greece 8, Australia 3, England 2.

APIA: Argentina 5, Australia 4, Scotland 3, England 2, Italy 2, Rhodesia 2.

Prague: Australia 8, England 6, Czechoslovakia 3, Argentina 2, Holland 1, Yugoslavia 1.

Croatia: Australia 12, England 4, Ireland 2, Scotland 2, Greece 1, Italy 1, Spain 1.

Polonia: Poland 10, Australia 7, Germany 1, England 1.

South Coast: Australia 11, England 7, Ireland 2, Scotland 1.

Yugal: Yugoslavia 12, Australia 7, Hungary 1, Greece 1, Italy 1.

Canterbury: Australia 8, Greece 6, Scotland 5, Austria 2, Wales 1, England 1, Argentina 1.

Melita Eagles: Australia 8, England 6, Scotland 4, Malta 3, Yugoslavia 2, Wales 1, Holland 1, Poland 1.

St. George: Australia 14, England 7, Hungary 3, Argentina 3, Scotland 2, Wales 1, Germany 1, Austria 1, New Caledonia 1.

We have noted the following observations for you:

● It may only be a coincidence, but have you noticed how the Scottish-born predominate in Hakoah and Pan Hellenic, the run-away leaders who fought it out between themselves for the league title?

● Almost half of the entire Scottish contingent in Sydney turned out for these two clubs.

● It could only be another coincidence, but Hakoah and Pan Hellenic used the least Australian-born players in the competition. Only 5 per cent, between them, of the entire content.

Fewer British

● For the first time since 1959 there are more Australian players than British (English, Scottish, Welsh and Irish).

● Continental-born players only total 67, (exactly 25 per cent), but of these, Yugoslavia, Poland and Greece account for 42.

● Asia is the only continent which is not represented in our cosmopolitan set-up. It hasn't been since Johnny Wong returned to Malaysia.

● The "African" element is provided by APIA with white Rhodesian-born Van Blerk and Wentzel.

● For the first time New Guineans were seen in the First Division — by courtesy

of Manly's Dobbin and Hobart.

● In six clubs, Australian-born players formed the largest single national group: Prague, Croatia, South Coast, Canterbury, Melita Eagles and St. George.

● Manly, with 15, used the most Australians, followed by St. George (14), Croatia (12) and South Coast (11).

● Hakoah were almost 45 per cent "Scottish", and Scots, as mentioned earlier, also dominated in Pan Hellenic, just ahead of the Greek-born.

● All but two of the 16 Greeks played for Pan Hellenic and Canterbury.

● Polonia and Yugal were the only migrant-sponsored clubs where their own nationals were in the majority. Both, however, also had seven Australian-born in their ranks.

● At the other end of the scale, there wasn't one Croatian in Croatia — an all-"British" outfit, bar three players.

● South Coast only relied on four nationalities and again retained their "British only" tag.

● St. George, with Australians, Englishmen, Hungarians, Argentinians, Scots, Welshmen, a German, an Austrian and a New Caledonian were the most cosmopolitan with nine nationalities, one more than Melita Eagles.

— Lou Gautier

CONQUEST: OUR GREATEST GOALIE EVER?

— By KEITH GILMOUR —

The recent death of Norman Conquest at the age of 51, took from the soccer scene one of the greatest goalkeepers to have represented Australia.

His football started in the township of Kearsley, near Cessnock.

In junior football "Connie" regularly played at left-half, as the goalkeeping berth in his team was filled by the legendary Jimmy MacNab.

Conquest graduated to senior football with Aberdare.

Former State soccer president Sid Grant well remembers Norm's first-grade debut — a match against Waratah-Mayfield, in which he saved a penalty.

The depression years lured young Conquest southward.

NSW soccer was at a peak when, just pre-war, he filled the goal for Good-year.

TOP DEFENCE

The Goodyear team contained mainly Newcastle expatriates, and went through a golden period of near invincibility as State Premiers in 1937-8-9.

With the Metters club right in their heyday, some titanic struggles ensued.

Few were the goals that the Goodyear defence of Conquest, "Digger" Evans, the international captain, and Jack Whitelaw conceded.

In later years, many other great defenders drew on the confidence that came from having "Connie" right behind them.

They included Jock Parkes, "Wagga" Wallace, Billy Wilson, Cec Drummond and Joe Marston, and halves of the strength of Ray Ridley and Les Hankin.

The eclipse of Goodyear resulted in Conquest joining such clubs as Metters-Canterbury, North Shore and Leichhardt-Annandale.

His years with the great Leichhardt teams are well remembered.

Often playing second string in representative football to keepers such as Billy Morgan (Adamstown), Jimmy Jenkins (Corrimal) and Stan Pavitt (Canterbury), Norm's brilliance in the air and magnificent diving saves brought him back to the top.

AUTOMATIC

So much so that he was the automatic choice for NSW and Australia against South Africa when international football resumed in 1947 after World War II.

On May 10, 1947 he gave a superb display in the First Test at the SCG when South Africa won 3-2 before 37,000 spectators.

The Australian line-up that day was Conquest; Joe Marston, Cec Drummond; Davie Coote, Alec Heaney, Lex Gibb; Charlie Stewart, Ted Drain, Reg Date, Jimmy Cunningham and Ray Marshall.

The highest point of Conquest's career came during the 1950 tour of South Africa.

Tour manager, the late Dave Johnston of Newcastle, freely acknowledged

that Australia's excellent record on that tour would not have been achieved without the guile and tactical sense that Conquest commanded.

His international career also included matches against Hajduk, the Yugoslav club and against Chinese tourists from Hong Kong.

In 1951 he appeared in the First Test against the English FA XI before a 46,000 crowd at the SCG, and gave a grand performance.

The Second Test was the one to be forgotten: 17 goals were rattled in by Hurst, Sewell, Broome, Hagan, Langton and Co.

With a crumbled, slow defence ahead of him, not even Conquest could deal with the avalanche.

The reserve goalkeeper that day was Ron Lord, who well recalls praying that he would not have to take over on that muddy Cricket Ground pitch!

Lord was selected for the Third, Fourth and Fifth Tests and as one great career ended, and another started.

Always a modest man, Conquest's tenacity took him to the top of his art, even though for robustness both Jim MacNab and later Ron Lord probably headed him.

Judging the players of one era against another is often difficult, but let some of his contemporaries.

SPORTSMAN

Former international forward Eric Hulme: "Norm Conquest was our best Australian goalkeeper in post-war years. It was an honor and pleasure to play with and against such a great sportsman."

Former Australian captain Joe Marston: "Norm was the best keeper I found in my years in soccer here. I played against him when he was with North Shore, and with him at Leichhardt."

"In the air he was just about faultless, and he was absolutely fearless when he went down for a ball."

"All his clearances were the best, and some of the keepers who beat him into representative teams weren't even in his class."

Norm used to recall first introducing to Sydney the idea of dashing out to cut off a high ball, as in those days a goalie mainly stuck to his line.

His loping run and low trajectory goalkicks, superb ability to soar up and hold a high ball, mastery of tactics and angles, and his never fancy but always effective dives will long live in the memories of those who played with him or who were privileged to see him play.

HELP LEGACY
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Sporting Editors must be slowly educated...

Slow awakening?

Your constant campaign for more soccer space in the Sydney morning and afternoon papers appears to be achieving little.

The motives of "Soccer World" are worthy, but repeated attacks on sporting editors will only antagonise these gentlemen against your paper and against the code of soccer.

If soccer is to get better treatment from the Press — which it undoubtedly deserves — it will only be achieved when the sporting editors are convinced that the code has earned it.

Rugby League is a big game in this State. Soccer cannot expect to grab any of the space so generously allocated to League.

So what will be sacrificed to give soccer bigger coverage?

The answer should now be obvious to everyone — that answer being Rugby Union.

Soccer's "top four" games were watched by 52,000 spectators. Union's "top four" games attracted 14,000.

Yet, despite this crystal clear evidence of the respective interest in each code, Rugby Union gets more space in the papers than soccer.

If those figures can be read, and appreciated, by sporting editors, there must surely be a change in the outlook of the morning and afternoon newspapers.

More than 18,000 people watch soccer in the First Division every weekend.

Rugby Union has a following of half that number.

Logically, then, the space for soccer should be at least double the space for Union.

In the "Sun" recently, the sporting editor pointed out that Union USED TO BE the number two football code in NSW.

He emphasised, perhaps not enthusiastically, that soccer is now number two after Rugby League.

When you can convince circulation managers of the papers that interest in soccer is increasing rapidly, and that Rugby Union is dying on its feet, then we shall get the space deserved by the greatest game in the world.

As far as television is concerned, the fight for more soccer coverage will be even more difficult.

The Mossops, Caseys and Shepherds are League fanatics. They tolerate soccer, but only just.

They regard soccer as a minor sport.

They have no idea of just how big the game has become.

Inevitably, it will be said that, even if a lot of people do follow soccer in Australia, they cannot read!

This is pursuance of the ancient anti-migrant theme.

To counter-balance the argument, what about the thousands... or rather millions... of British migrants who never watch First Division soccer here?

Nearly all of them are

READERS' LETTERS

tremendously keen on soccer and like to read about it.

Good luck to you in your campaign for better treatment for soccer from the daily Press.

I hope my letter finds its way on to the desk of every sporting editor.

They will not be bullied, but if they are fair, they will not object to being guided by the FACTS in this letter.

JIMMY HAMILTON,
Mosman.

No Hungarians

Permit me to correct your statement in "Smalltalk" (SW, Oct. 4).

The Hungarian soccer team did not, in fact, take part in the Melbourne Olympic Games.

Had they done so, they could only field a scrap side as most of their stars, of Honved, MTK and the Youth Team were touring Austria and Germany when the revolution broke out.

Consequently many of them, including almost the full youth team as well as Puskas and Co., never returned to their homeland.

But otherwise you are right: the Russian team did take part and as you know, went on to win the tournament.

V. KEMENES,
Cambridge St.,
Cook, ACT.

● Reader Kemenes misunderstood our statement. We referred to the Hungarian Olympic team — not just the soccer side. Anyway, he is wrong about the reasons for Hungary's absence in 1956: the decision not to enter their soccer team was made months before the Revolution broke out in October.

— Editor.

Kudos denied

Keith Gilmour's article "Bankstown youth shone brightly" is a pleasant breakthrough; a bit of publicity for our district, but I think you should straighten Keith out a bit regarding a few of his statements.

Eric Drury managed the under-14 Inter District team. Nelson Stiffle only saw them play twice.

Yours truly has coached this team to three Metropolitan Championships and two State titles.

Roger Bamford coached the 16 years team and Nelson coached the 15 years side.

We need publicity but please, don't take all the news you get from our senior club, without the salt cellar.

DAVE MATHIE,
Secretary.

● We are replenishing our stock of salt cellars. Apologies for our omission.

— Editor.

MELBOURNE PAGE...

EDITED BY BOB LOW

SYDNEY TEAM'S WIN IN CUP FULLY DESERVED

With a three-goal margin before they kicked off, the all-conquering Hakoah from Sydney proved, particularly in the second half of their second leg Australia Cup-Final match with sister club Hakoah of Melbourne, that there was never any real doubt as to the outcome of the overall result.

HAKOAH (VIC.) v. HAKOAH (NSW) 1-3

Mind you the Victorian team who led 1-0 at half-time and who had dominated the major part of the game for this half could have wiped out the deficit they incurred in the first leg in Sydney.

The Melbourne team suffered a blow after two minutes when Dick Van Alphen the Victoria and Australia centre-half was forced to retire with a re-

curing leg injury and was replaced by Douglas.

This resulted in Stenhouse switching to the berth of pivot.

For most of the first half the locals were in command with Stenhouse at centre-half not only containing the few occasional raids by the Sydney side but also adopting a roving position and moving well up field to urge his forwards on.

For the first 20 minutes the Sydney team had placed the emphasis on feeding left-winger Jones with the result that Keith had a torrid time.

By the same token Willie Rutherford who had been completely "starved" looked

in his few moves as the main danger.

The visitors squered the game 13 minutes after half time when following a blunder by Henderson and Stenhouse, the goalscoring Scot, Willie Rutherford nipped in to shoot past Henderson with ease.

From then on it was all over.

In the last minute Ray Baartz, after receiving a through-ball almost on the centre-line, bore his way down on goal with only Henderson to beat and planted a third goal into the net for good measure.

Details:

Hakoah (Vic.): Henderson, Keith, Lapish, Murney, Van Alphen (Douglas), Stenhouse, Fry, Thomas, Armstrong, Cameron, O'Neill.

Hakoah (NSW): Fuzes, Fekete, Hillsdon, Walsh, Marnoch, Yaager, H. Rutherford, W. Rutherford, Watkiss, Baartz, Jones.

Referee: O'Malley (SA). Excellent performance despite being slightly over technical.

Crowd: (official) at Middle Park — 2,850 paid.

CLUB NEWS

● George Weinberg, the Hakoah president who rocked Victorian soccer earlier this season by announcing publicly that his club was in the "red" to the tune of \$12,000 and suggested at the same time that many more State League clubs were in the same boat, is no longer chief of the Middle Park club. At the recent AGM of the club he was succeeded by Victor Gross. Weinberg continues as vice-president.

● Former Wilhelmina forward Tommy Carmichael who transferred to Lions two years ago and was transformed into their first team goalie for 18 months until recently displaced by Robert Evans, is on the transfer list at his own request.

● Charles Hay, former chairman of the Metropolitan Disciplinary Committee and a leading official and patron of Hakoah for many years, has been made an honorary president of the club. Hay, who recently lost his wife is also an honorary life-member of the Victorian Federation.

● Ray Barotajs, the Latvian-born 'keeper of Slavia for almost 13 years and now team-manager of the club, suffered a severe hand injury recently during a club practice match. Ray, however, should be fully fit in case he is needed for Slavia's Ampol Cup games.

● Last Thursday evening the Victorian Soccer Federation held their annual general meeting at Olympic Park. The same evening and almost at the same time, the Victorian Soccer Coaches Association staged a soccer film show at the Railway Institute in Flinders Street, almost only a stone's throw away. A lamentable lack of unity and non-co-operation.

● Two coaches from Sydney and one from Newcastle have applied for posts which are vacant with Victorian clubs.

● Reports that Jim Dimitrie a former leading official of South Melbourne Hellas and of the Victorian Soccer Federation will make a come-back with the Greek club are so far unconfirmed. Jimmy, whose brother Con was a leading figure in ACT soccer, is now mine host at the Canada Club Hotel in Melbourne.

LIONS FACE BIG CHANGES

Following their best-ever season in the State League, Lions Soccer Club from Essendon are likely to show considerable changes in both their internal and external affairs after their annual general meeting to be held on Sunday.

For a kick-off, well informed reports suggest that they will lose the services of both their secretary and treasurer.

The loss of their secretary, George Sawczak who has held the post for the past two years, will be a blow as the big fellow has been untiring in his efforts to bring Lions into the "big-time."

Sawczak is standing down through a change in employment while the club treasurer's other activities are demanding more and more of his time which will compel him to quit soccer.

The fact that Lions recently parted company with player-coach Peter Aldis and appointed former Kilmarnock player Kenny Patterson as temporary team-boss is another problem which will necessitate an appointment on a permanent basis.

The biggest problem likely to face the new management, however, is the question of where the club will play in 1968.

For some time now it has been all-too apparent that Montgomery Park, despite the efforts and assistance given by the Essendon Council, is unsuitable on several counts.

The playing surface is the worst among the State League grounds. With no cover of any sort, the fans are subjected to the elements and the Lions management feel they are losing considerable support which is hitting the club's coffers.

Strong hints have been handed out that Lions may seek partnership with Polonia at the "new look" Maribynong Reserve or apply for Olympic Park now that Alexander have lost their State League status.

ADELAIDE NEWS

Soccer enters twilight zone

— From ALLAN CRISP —

Adelaide will have a taste of "twilight" soccer when Budapest and Austria play the second leg of their Ampol night series elimination at Woodville West tomorrow, (Saturday November 9).

In order to avoid the possibility of playing in hot weather, the game will kick-off at 4.30 p.m.

Budapest won the first leg of the play-off 3-2 by unleashing a grandstand finish that pegged back Austria's two goal lead.

Austria finished eighth in First Division and Budapest won the Second Division championship.

The winner of the play-off will join the top seven First Division teams in the night series which begins in January.

Both sides were below full strength for the first leg game because it clashed with the WA-SA match played in Perth.

Budapest will have Geza Farkas and John Pike back, while Austria will gain more mid-field drive with the return of Terry Wetton.

Peter Bakurski was the hero of the first game with his hat-trick of goals.

The return of Farkas and Pike should afford Bakurski more scoring chances.

Budapest, despite their earlier success, will not be complacent.

Coach George Buttas will hold vivid memories of Austria's sharp breakaway ability that kept Budapest in arrears until the final seven minutes of the last tie.

Budapest are keen to qualify for the Ampol series because it would condition them ideally for their return to First Division in 1969.

West End Medal runner-up, Wetton, will lift Austria's hopes, but Budapest's greater skill and purpose

should bring them another victory.

The match will be preceded by a novel game between the "over 35s" of both clubs.

Former SA players, Les Suchanek, Kurt Leitner, Gunter Nowak, Jacobs and Kraller, will be making "comebacks."

A carnival note will also be added when the six Miss Austria finalists will parade to receive their awards.

BETTY'S SUITORS

Two British coaches who are migrating to Australia and seven locals have applied to coach Elizabeth City next year.

Secretary Ken Lowcock said that the appointment would be decided at the club's annual general meeting on November 17.

Elizabeth finished ninth in First Division this year under coach Jackie Allistair, who resigned to move interstate.

The SA Federation executive decided to leave Elizabeth in the major division and rejected the promotion application of Azzurri, who were Second Division runners-up to Budapest.

Azzurri, however, intend to appeal to the Council of Clubs next month.

A two-thirds majority is required for a successful appeal.

— A. Crisp

SANDY IS OUR TOP GOALIE

Acclaimed as the number one 'keeper in Victorian soccer in 1968 is 28-year-old Sandy Henderson of Hakoah.

The former Dundee junior who had eight seasons in the Scottish Second Division with Forfar Athletic, Brechin City and Cowdenbeath has been the pride and joy of the Middle Park side all year.

He joined them from Scotland at the start of the year, found the controversial Mike O'Hara firmly installed as the first team regular and waited patiently for a few weeks for his big chance.

It came after O'Hara and Hakoah had a disagreement. Henderson took over, never looked back with the result that his predecessor is in the background.

Unless Henderson suffers a complete reversal of form, he must be considered a certainty to take over as Victoria's goalkeeper since Czech ace Willem Schroff returned home to Europe earlier this year.

He is employed outside of soccer by the Education Authority as a physical training instructor at one of Melbourne's schools.

Number two choice among the State League goalies must surely be 23-year-old Mike Kovacek of Croatia who played a significant part in his side winning all the major honors in Victorian soccer this year.

Kovacek, who came to Australia in 1963 and is a product of the Croatia juniors, has until this year been in and out of the Croatia first team for over four seasons.

Inconsistency and immaturity kept him more on



SANDY HENDERSON

the sidelines than in the team until John Young returned to UK at the end of last season.

At the start of this year Mike grabbed his big chance so much so that all the way throughout there has never been the slightest fear he would lose his place.

Third selection is 20-year-old Lou Kastener of George Cross who has been with the club over five years during which time he has seen at least half a dozen first team net-tenders and in which period he himself has only made a few appearances in the senior side.

That is until this season when Kastener gained promotion and was recognised as the number one 'keeper with the Cross before his shock departure.

Hitting the fourth spot is youthful Nick Van Egmond of Wilhelmina who came up via the clubs' junior ranks and is a son of a former Wilhelmina goalie.

Opening Announcement

BY

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SYDNEY CLUB PATROL

According to a strong tip, PAN HELLENIC are planning to transfer-list all their players except Hignett, McCulloch, Smith and Johnstone. Big-name stars released may include Cole, Westwater, Blitz and Karyannis.

Negotiations are proceeding between PRAGUE and a Slovan Bratislava player who, all going well, may join them soon.

APIA star, RICARDO CAMPANA, due to return home to Argentina in January, is willing to stay if he gets a suitable offer from another club.

Pan Hellenic are hoping to get brilliant goalie, DEMOPOULOS from Canterbury.

PRAGUE have started a recruiting drive: every Tuesday and Thursday evening, from 5.30, coach Joe Venglos will be happy to look at

really talented youngsters from the age of 15 upwards, at the Marks Field.

Veteran Melita centrehalf, CILIA, may retire — and take over the coaching of the team next season.

The final and prize presentation of the FOOT-TENNIS competition at the St. George-Budapest Club will be held at 7.30 p.m., November 18. In the semifinals played last Monday Venglos-Scheinflug defeated Schaefer-Stegbauer and Zuckerman-Schauman defeated Clarke-Hardy.

BILLY KERKLAAN, the APIA left winger, has returned to Sydney from an extended holiday in Holland.

BILLY EDWARDS says he will leave Yugal whether he undertakes a Yugoslavian study-tour or not.

JOHN WARREN, GEORGE YARDLEY and DAVE TODD recently held a reunion in Stockport, England. The chances are all three will be here for the start of the 1969 Ampol Cup.

Of the three young Melita starlets, EDWARDS has already agreed to stay on and sign as a professional while SMITH and QUESTED are still considering an offer from the club.

The Australian NATIONAL team subcommittee is likely to meet within a fortnight to map out the requirements and full 1969 program.

Laurie HEGYES is likely to be appointed as Sutherland's new coach.

BANKSTOWN-United will hold its annual general meeting on December 2. Team training under new coach Roy Smith will start on January 14.

It is believed that GEORGE AZZOPARDI who was Polonia's coach until half-way through last season is about to join a Second Division club in the Western Suburbs.

MELITA EAGLES' new secretary is John Sammut, an insurance agent and the treasurer is Donald C. Agius, a bank employee. Although opposed, Vince Pisani was re-elected president of the club for another term.

Former Bankstown and Corinthians coach, FRANK BROOME, a one-time England international, died in a car crash last weekend in Britain. Broome, who toured Australia in 1951 with an English FA XI, later spent two stretches in Sydney. Finally, two years ago, once again he returned home to England and took over as manager at Fourth Division Exeter City.

The NSW Soccer Federation told Melita Eagles not to use MONA PARK as its home ground next season despite the fact that the club has already made arrangements to do so. "Protests will pour into the Federation's office on this ruling as this is a major reversal of policy on the Federation's part and the only word received so far was that the ground is needed for juniors," one committee member said.

Hakoah star RAY BAARTZ is keen to return to Adamstown next year where his family and fiancée live.

Melita Eagles will sponsor a 14-team JUNIOR club in the Eastern Suburbs competition with players from the ages of 7 to 16 years.

POSITION VACANT

YOOGALI SOCCER CLUB
requires a Coach.

Applicants are requested to give full details of soccer career and state whether available for coaching only or as player-coach, before November 30, 1968.

THE SECRETARY,
Box 1094, P.O., Griffith, N.S.W. 2680

WITH THE AMATEURS

SEASIDERS TO DIGEST LESSON

— By KEITH GILMOUR —

Twenty years ago it would have been hard to discover a soccer team in Manly-Warringah even with the aid of a magnifying glass.

But 1968 saw 292 teams, excluding the proliferous under-sevens, and 1969 should mean some 320 teams at least . . .

Since fledgling days, Manly-Warringah has seen many ups and downs. First Division status had arrived in NSW Soccer Association days, but Manly went back down to the basement, only to force its way through Amateurs to First Divisions.

Now back to Second Divisions, the District Club has retained all its 1968 players, and is ready to fight its way up again. Probably Manly will not be far behind Wests, Bankstown and Sutherland from a financial viewpoint, and indeed has led all-comers in establishing a closely-knit organisation where the junior of today will be the skilled senior of tomorrow.

The control and finance of the district's football is vested in the Manly-Warringah Soccer Association Limited, which is in turn under the control of its nine directors. The former Fishermen's club in Darley Street in the centre of Manly has been leased by the M-W SA Ltd. as its headquarters. First rate club rooms are thus available for the District Club and the Juniors. The seating capacity of 250 is certain to be taxed when the Association has its annual meeting on Friday, November 22.

Rest assured that some more startling news is to be announced from the Manly camp as the days unfold. The potential of the Graham Reserve ground is a monument to the work of a band of visionaries, led by Alan Bush. Anyone who has seen the ground will admit that in years to come it will be one of Sydney's greatest soccer parks. Councils all over Sydney still persist in invariably building ovals which are mainly quite unsuitable for playing and watching football. When men join up to obtain a proper style of soccer ground, as the Manly officials did, the future of soccer starts to become a here-and-now reality.

This year former secretary of Manly junior club, George Dick, takes over as senior club secretary from Alan Bush, who has had to retire due to business pressure. George Dick is no stranger to good class football, having served as manager of Manly's Metropolitan Championship-winning under-18 side. The Association this year will have a new president, as Brian Emery will not stand for election, after a 10-year stint as an official. For 1969, the MW SA Ltd. will carry the entire cost of district junior representative teams. Already a new junior club has been formed at Cromer, and is preparing for the 1969 competitions. This year local Allambie club won the strong under-18 North of the Harbour competition, which included the best 18s from Ku-ring-gai and Manly. The under-13 and 12 representative teams missed out on the Metropolitan titles on goal averages, the only teams from the 120 entrants to achieve this unwanted distinction. And so to run through the 1968 competition winners, who were:

- A grade Div. 1: Warringah Saints.
- A grade Div. 2: Collaroy Plateau.
- U/16 1s: Dee Why.
- U/16 2s: Collaroy Plateau.
- U/15 1s: Manly Vale.
- U/15 2s: Beacon Hill.
- U/14 1s: Curl Curl.
- U/14 2s: Narrabeen.
- U/13 1s: Beacon Hill.
- U/13 2s: Collaroy Plateau.
- U/13 3s: Christian Bros. College, Manly.
- U/12 1s: Manly Vale.
- U/12 2s: Narrabeen.
- U/12 3s: C.B.C.
- U/11 1s: Curl Curl.
- U/11 2s: Forest.
- U/11 3s: Seaforth.
- U/11 4s: Manly.
- U/10 1s: Curl Curl.
- U/10 2s: Curl Curl.
- U/10 3s: C.B.C.
- U/10 4s: Curl Curl.
- U/9 1s: Narrabeen.
- U/9 2s: Allambie.
- U/9 3s: Manly.
- U/9 4s: Manly.
- U/8 1s: Beacon Hill and Curl Curl jointly.
- U/8 2s: Pittwater.
- U/8 3s: Narrabeen.
- U/8 4s: Collaroy Plateau.
- U/7 1s: Collaroy Plateau.
- U/7 2s: C.B.C.
- U/7 3s: Narrabeen.
- U/7 4s: Beacon Hill.

Second Division reviewed

Nth. Sydney Inter's fate is in balance

— By CHARLES SPITERI —

Finishing in eighth position in their first year in Second Division was a considerable achievement for North Sydney-Inter particularly when one reflects the handicaps the club had to cope with.

Even to the greatest optimist, Inter's 17 points from six wins and five draws were more than anyone could expect before the first ball was kicked.

The biggest disadvantage the club had to face was the home ground dilemma.

As it turned out, Norths had to play most of their games at Cammeray Park — an open field — where they could not charge admission fee.

Inter worked hard to arrange dates for home matches at any available ground not in use following their

unsuccessful application to get North Sydney Oval.

However, the problem is still a real one and it is almost certain that the club will have another go to secure its share of playing dates at North Sydney Oval next season.

Norths' troubles were not confined to the ground problem; during the season their coaching position changed hands four times and included three coaches, Jerry Purcell, W. Hardy and Karl Jaros.

INJURIES

The club also had its share of troubles with the players and with injuries.

At times it was a big effort for the administration to produce three sides.

North Sydney made use of 22 players in first grade during the season and, like many other clubs, their best armour was in defence with Drago Markulin, the goalkeeper, making a very good impression.

Financially, Norths are struggling like most of the others in the division and manage to keep on their feet by the generous backing of their small but loyal band of supporters.

There is very little planning going on at the moment to prepare for the

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